Indo-American Cooperation

†828. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which agreement for joint ventures has been signed between India and America;

(b) whether America has expressed its willingness to play a military role in Kashmir, and if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the decision Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) India and the United States have a shared commitment to deepen cooperation across the full spectrum of bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interst, including in political and security matters, defence, counter-terrorism, economic and commercial relation, science and technology, health energy and environment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

British Prime Minister's Statement on Kashmir

829. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of U.K. on his arrival at New Delhi on 4th January, 2002, made a statement that Pakistan's position on Kashmir is very strong;

(b) if so, whether it shows that U.K.'s position on Kashmir is quite clear;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) to what extent his visit has been successful keeping in view of his statement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In an interview to the BBC on 3 January, PM Blair is reported to have said that "Paskistan has a very strong position on Kashmir and they are entitled to that political position". In the same

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.